

P U B L I C E V E N T

Anthropologies of extortion in Latin America

Friday, September 29, 2023
13:30 – 18:30

University of St.Gallen
Lehr-Pavillon, Room 23-003

or via [Zoom](#)



ANTHROPOLOGIES OF EXTORTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Over the last two decades there has been increasing concern about the spread of criminal political entanglements and a blurring between legitimate and illegal economies in Latin America and beyond. Against this backdrop extortion, the criminal offence of obtaining money, property, or services from an individual or institution through intimidation (or force), is said to be on the increase.

Also referred to as 'protection rackets', extortionists are typically the source of violence as well as the providers of protection from the violence they mete out. The so-called 'offer one can't refuse' has come to occupy a quintessential position in the global imaginary of mafia-type-criminal organizations. But extortion also exists beyond clandestine criminal networks, and it is becoming a profitable source of livelihood and governance and a key visible social relation in many parts of the world.

Despite this observable trend, much of academic, policy and media attention still remain focused on extortion's economic transactional nature rather than its lasting effects in shaping social and moral relations, effects that reach beyond the moment and place of the transaction, as well as its original rationale.

This one-day workshop explores ethnographically 'offers one can't refuse' and asks what are the specificities of the social life of extortion in the Latin American context?

PROGRAM

13:30 – 13:35 **Thomas Grisaffi**, University of St.Gallen (CLS HSG)
Omid Alizadeh Afrouzi, University of St.Gallen (CLS HSG)
Welcome

13:35 – 13:40 **Lucia Michelutti**, University College London (UCL)
Opening remarks

INTIMACY AND EXTORTION IN MEDELLIN

13:40 – 14:20 **Patrick Naef**, University of Geneva

Q&A Session moderated by Desmond Arias (CUNY)

WHEN THE EXTORTED BECOMES THE EXTORTER: FISCAL BATTLES IN EVERYDAY BUSINESS RELATIONS IN BOLIVIA

14:20 – 15:00 **Miranda Sheild Johansson**, University College London (UCL)

Q&A Session moderated by Thomas Grisaffi (CLS HSG)

ENVIRONMENTAL WEALTH AND EXTORTION IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON: INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

15:00 – 15:40 **Julia Sauma**, Goldsmiths, University of London

Q&A Session moderated by Lucia Michelutti (UCL)

15:40 – 16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

PREDATORY SUBJECTIVITIES IN BOOM-AND-BUST ECONOMIES OF SOUTH AMERICA

16:00 – 16:40 **Amy Penfield**, University of Bristol

Q&A Session moderated by Ashraf Hoque (UCL)

CRIMINAL DISPLACEMENT: RUPTURE AND RESIGNATION IN A GUATEMALAN EXTORTION ZONE

16:40 – 17:20 **Katherine Saunders**, University College London (UCL)

Q&A Session moderated by Paul Rollier (CéSor-EHESS)

THE COST OF VIOLENCE: A STUDY OF CRIMINAL COOPERATION IN THE DRUG TRADE

17:20 – 18:00 **Zora Hauser**, University of Oxford

Q&A Session moderated by Matías Dewey (CLS HSG)

18:00 – 18:30 **Desmond Arias**, City University of New York (CUNY)
Wrap-up

18:30 **APÉRO RICHE**

MAP OF THE CAMPUS



23 Lehr-Pavillon, Room 23-003

This event is **open to public**.

If you wish to participate at the workshop (virtually or in-person), please register by sending until September 26, 2023 an email to: cls-hsg@unisg.ch

Please let us know if you wish to participate at the apéro.

If you wish to attend the event online, please use this [Zoom](#) link.

All the information about this event is available at www.cls.unisg.ch

